

# ***Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee***

## **Meeting Agenda**

November 3, 2012 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room, 4:30 PM

Attending: Sue Morrello, John Root, Laurel Dickey, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Craig Goff (visitor, has submitting application to the town for membership), Susan Waite.

- Approve August & October minutes – Accepted unanimously as edited for both August and October.

- Foam Free Subcommittee update – The next phase is that we reconfirm all the restaurants that said they are not using foam over one year ago (must be done by 11/11/12). The owner of the Hanger (Harold Tramazzo) met with Chamber of Commerce Director. Susan Waite (and maybe Sue Morrello) will go to meet with him at his restaurant. His major concern is the increased cost that will result. Cynthia will present at the Town Meeting Warrant Meeting (Nov. 8, 2013), Working on publicity (press release, Amherst Media show, Board of Health will provide an endorsement letter, ad in Bulletin before Town Meeting, hopefully 11/15/12). Tony Maroulis, Susan, and Jan Soja from Richard Smith Paper in Greenfield will meet on 11/8/12 to discuss the possibility of organizing a buying coop for recyclable or compostable foam alternatives. Amherst schools are using no foam. Boston and Brookline are both aggressively pursuing bans. Op Ed and LWV letter to the editor will run concurrently with publishing ad in Amherst Bulletin.

- Landfill Alt next steps – Susan will resend the Landfill Alt report to all members. Please get edits to John within one week.

- America Recycles Day (Nov. 14) discussion – Not enough time to get organized before Nov 14 for the schools. Something about America Recycles to be included in the Op Ed piece for the Bulletin.

- Zero Waste summit evaluation & EPA workshop report – positive feedback from committee members about the Zero Waste Summit. Susan and Sue went to a special workshop on Zero Waste. Susan did not learn as much as hoped, format was more one of information seeking from participants. Two “take-aways”: 1) California Zero Waste data may be inaccurate, 2) There is a “franchise” model for dealing with a town’s private haulers used in some places in CT. Sue found it very stimulating and informative.

- Determine zero waste next steps – Motion to review the charts created at the Zero Waste Summit at the next meeting and sample proclamation. Passed unanimously. Susan will send notes out and sample proclamation to committee members. Foam reduction is the first step in a movement toward Zero Waste. **Add info from summit charts to the Landfill Alternatives Report.**

- New business

- Town resident complained to John about the fact that the Take-It-or-Leave-It is only available on the day that items are dropped off and that Transfer Station employees/volunteers remove “choice” items. Susan will look into this issue. Two considerations: 1) Is it ok for things to be taken for resale? 2) Is the town missing a possible revenue source? This conversation will be continued as part of the

Landfill Alternatives conversation. Susan will talk with Guilford Mooring and Steve Telega about it.

- Does anyone want to attend the Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> America Recycles breakfast at the Delany House? Sue M. will go with Susan W. and Steve Telega.
- Susan W. went to the Rally for Reuse in Northampton. There is a committee that plans this event (as well as the toy swap). Susan helped with the craft materials swap. Community Tailgate Sale will be at the Smith Vocational High School parking lot on Nov. 10, 2011. Also will do Styrofoam collection and paper shredding. In December there will be a toy swap.
- Our committee needs two more members. Craig Goff is interested and has applied with the town.
- Recycling Committee was awarded a special certificate from the “Transition Amherst” group. One of many awards given out.